

Rock County, Wisconsin



Rock County Administrator
51 South Main Street
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545
Phone: 608/757-5510
Web Site: www.co.rock.wi.us

February 3, 2010

Representative Tammy Baldwin
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4902

RE: Request Appropriation for Rock County Radio Communications Project

Dear Representative Baldwin:

I am requesting your assistance on behalf of all the cities, villages, and towns in Rock County. We wish to create a radio communications system for all public sector radio traffic. At present, 38 public agencies within the County are utilizing a "hodge-podge" of legacy systems. Those systems do not permit all the agencies to talk to each other via radio under normal circumstances, let alone during emergencies. New radio technology exists that would allow us to consolidate our system and give us the ability to have interoperable radio communication. In layman's terms, interoperability means we can talk to each other over the radio.

The need to proceed now is driven in part by a FCC mandate to "narrowband" all radio communications by January 1, 2013. We are looking at a digital trunked radio system that meets federal and state standards for radio interoperability and complies with the FCC mandate. That sophisticated system allows encrypted communication as well as the ability to communicate with state and federal agencies should the need arise. The migration to this system is cost prohibitive. We estimate that backbone infrastructure and 1,600 mobile and portable radios would cost approximately \$8.6 million. Rock County and other local governments would provide a 25% match, or approximately \$2.2 million of the total project. Thus, we are requesting your support for a federal appropriation of \$6.4 million.

Rock County and its underlying jurisdictions have studied the issue for approximately 2 years. The concept has the broad support of all public sector agencies including public safety, public works and transit systems. Our biggest challenge is finding a way to fund the project. That challenge is exacerbated by the national recession that has hit Rock County harder than any other area of the State. Your assistance in securing a federal appropriation for this project would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Russell Podzilni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Russell Podzilni
County Board Chair

**Office of Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
Appropriations Request Form
Fiscal Year 2011**

All Appropriation Requests are due by 5pm (CST) on Friday, February 5, 2010. Late forms may not be eligible for an earmark request.

Completed forms should be sent via e-mail to Amber Shipley at amber.shipley@mail.house.gov. In the subject line of the e-mail, please put your organization's name, followed by "FY11 Appropriations Request Form" (i.e. Organization X—FY11 Appropriations Request Form)

All information included in this form may be made available to the public.

In addition to this form, you must submit a letter of support signed by the leader (i.e. Mayor, CEO, President, Executive Director, Chair) of the submitting institution or organization. This letter should explain in plain language why the project deserves public support. This letter may be made available to the public.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amber Shipley at amber.shipley@mail.house.gov or at (202) 225-2906.

1. Name of Submitting Institution/Entity (municipality/institution/organization)

Rock County, Wisconsin

2. City and County of Submitting Institution/Entity

Janesville, Rock County

3. Primary Contact (name, title, address, e-mail, phone, fax)

Phil Boutwell, Assistant to the County Administrator, Rock County Courthouse, 51 South Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545, philb@co.rock.wi.us, phone 608 757-5506, FAX 608 757-5511

4. Secondary Contact and/or Lobbyist Contact, if applicable (name, title, address, e-mail, phone, fax)

Dave Sleeter, Director, Rock County Communications Center, 3636 North Co. Road F, Janesville, WI 53545, SLEETER@co.rock.wi.us, phone 608 757-5012, FAX 608 757-5081

5. Describe the organization's main activities and whether it is a public, private, or non-profit entity

County Government offers a wide variety of public services under the broad categories of health, human services, public works, and public safety.

6. Project Statement of Purpose

Please provide a brief description—no more than 3 sentences—about how funding will be used. In drafting your statement of purpose, we urge you to review how this project description will be used online as required by the House Appropriations Committee:

<http://tammybaldwin.house.gov/fundingrequests.html>

The project creates a digital trunked radio communications system for all units of government within Rock County. The infrastructure would support in excess of 1,600 mobile and portable radios used by local jurisdictions for public safety, public works and transit systems. The unified system would offer interoperable radio communications for all local users as well as between local users and state and federal agencies.

7. Project Summary

Please provide a narrative of no more than 500 words describing the project, including background, demonstrated need, how it fits within Congresswoman Baldwin's priority areas listed on the Factsheet, and use of funding.

Project: Create a digital trunked radio communications system for all units of government within Rock County. The infrastructure would support in excess of 1,600 mobile and portable radios used by local jurisdictions. The system would offer interoperable radio communications for all local users as well as between local users and state and federal agencies.

Background: The public safety, public works, and transit systems within Rock County operate multiple radio communications systems. The public agencies utilize a variety of radio frequencies. These include VHF radio systems operating on independent radio channels, while others rely on UHF radio systems and low band VHF. The diversity of radio systems makes it difficult to interoperate and coordinate activities during emergencies. Furthermore, all of the systems operate in what is termed a "wideband" mode that, by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule, must be narrow banded before January 1, 2013 with narrowband systems.

Demonstrated Need: The national recession has hit Rock County particularly hard. Unemployment levels are high and property values are declining. Our major source of funds is the property tax base, which is tapped out. Local governments are also under state mandated levy limits. While this is a very important project with public safety overtones, it is not feasible to fund entirely at the local level.

Meets Priority Areas: This project clearly meets the needs of the cities, villages, towns in Rock County, which all benefit from this project. It enhances all public sector responses to any disaster or emergency through the interoperability the system offers. A case can be made for improving health care because fire/EMS directly benefits from improved communications. Improved communications translates to faster responses especially to large, life threatening events. The project is a high tech communications project that replaces legacy analog radio systems with modern digital technology and operating software. The project would require hiring a person to manage the system. It is likely local vendors would help install and maintain the system.

Use of Funding: Purchase radio hardware, computer software, and components in order to create a countywide digital trunked radio system that is interoperable.

8. Appropriations Subcommittee from which funding is being requested (if known)

Unknown.

9. Agency or Account from which funding is being requested (if known)

Unknown.

10. Total Project Cost: \$8,649,458

11. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2011: \$6,487,094

12. Budget Breakdown/Timeline of Use of Funds (Example: salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000; renovations \$10,000; etc.)

Uses of Funds

Item	Rock County Cost	Local Agency Cost	Total Cost
Antenna System - Installed		82,500	82,500
Console Maintenance (MCC7500)	41,300		41,300
Console MCC7500 - each position	1,200,000		1,200,000
Console MCC7500 NICE Recorder	109,000		109,000
Console MCC7500 w/Encryption	386,000		386,000
Documents and permits		100,000	100,000
Electrical and Grounding Site Work		70,000	70,000
GPS for Simulcast		28,000	28,000
Install IntelliRepeater 6-Pack		1,760	1,760
Licensing Fees Trunking - Non-NPSPAC		5,040	5,040
Maintenance - Repeater Site		1,728	1,728
Microwave Hop - 6 GHz High Capacity		150,000	150,000
Personal Pager - Narrowband		59,400	59,400
Personal Pager - Reprogram		940	940
Radio - Digital Repeater w/Encryption		1,450,000	1,450,000
Radio- Mobile VHF/UHF w/Install		943,000	943,000
Radio - Portable VHF/UHF		428,800	428,800
Radio - VHF/UHF Mobile Encrypted		141,900	141,900
Radio - VHF/UHF Portable Encrypted		123,000	123,000
Training - Dispatcher	40,000		40,000
Training - First Responder		20,000	20,000
Trunking - 6-Pack Multi-Cast		550,000	550,000

Trunking Site Controller		1,500,000	1,500,000
Contingency Fund		579,567	579,567
Consulting Fees		637,523	637,523
Total	1,776,300	6,873,158	8,649,458

Local Match Requirement (25% of Total)	444,075	1,718,290	2,162,365
Federally Funded (75% of Total)	1,332,225	5,154,869	6,487,094
Total	1,776,300	6,873,158	8,649,458

13. Federal Appropriations Funding History for this Project

If applicable, please indicate for each prior earmark how the funds have benefited the public (Example: jobs created, economic impact, etc.).

Not applicable, this project has not applied for, or received prior earmarked funding.

14. Have you submitted this request to any other Members of Congress or Senators? If so, which one(s)?

Rock County has discussed this project with Senator Kohl, Senator Feingold, Rep. Ryan and Rep. Baldwin. Rock County plans on submitting a request to Senator Kohl.

15. Will this project proceed if no federal tax dollars are earmarked for it? If only a portion of the request is funded by an appropriation, will the project proceed?

Unlikely. The project is cost prohibitive

16. What other sources of funding are you pursuing? Have you pursued funding for this project through the federal procurement process? Have you applied for competitive grants to fund this project? If so, which one(s) and when? Were you successful? Please indicate if you would like further assistance from Congresswoman Baldwin concerning federal procurements or competitive grants.

No. We have not pursued funding through a federal procurement process.

Rock County, City of Beloit and the City of Janesville have pooled resources to hire a professional grant writer. We will be looking at competitive grants for this project too. The most likely target is the Assistance to Firefighters grant through FEMA. Another source should be Homeland Security Funding for radio interoperability, but the State of Wisconsin, Office of Justice Assistance has chosen not to share those funds with local jurisdictions.

17. Is this a one-time request, or do you expect that you will request further earmarks in future years?

If funded, no further earmarks would be requested.

18. Is funding for this project required by a certain date? If so, when will funding no longer be useful?

Given the technological complexity of the project equipment, set-up, training, and the need to be operational by January 1, 2013, funding commitments would have to be in place by late 2011.

19. Are State or local matching funds available if required? If so, how much?

Many projects have a cost-sharing requirement, which can range between 20-45 percent. (Example: a \$1 million project with a 45 percent match requirement would receive a maximum of \$550,000 from the federal government and the remaining \$450,000 would have to be paid for through a non-federal source.)

Local agencies understand the need for cost sharing. The project concept calls for a 25% local match.

20. Priority number

If applicable and one entity is submitting multiple requests, please rank this request as compared to your other requests.

Not applicable. This is Rock County's only request for assistance.

21. Department of Defense (DOD) requests only Not applicable to Rock County's project.

- a. Have you spoken to a Department of Defense official (from any branch) about the feasibility of this project?
- b. If yes, please provide contact information for this official (name, title, address, e-mail, phone, fax).
- c. All DOD appropriations requests must include a completed House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense (HAC-D) form as well. Please ensure that the following section of the HAC-D form is completed before submitting both the HAC-D form and Congresswoman Baldwin's form.

d. Provide only one of the following (this section MUST be filled in):

Military Personnel Budget Activity #:

Operation and Maintenance Budget Activity #:

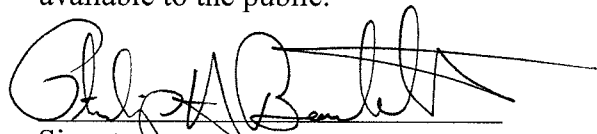
Procurement P-1 Line #:

RDTE R-1 Line #: PE #:

Intel Line #:

22. Constituent Certification

I hereby certify that the information included in this form was prepared by me and can be made available to the public.


Signature

Phil Bantwell
Printed Name